

# STATE OF THE COUNTY TOUR

Wayne County

Who we are and What's Happening

September 2013

# Why are we coming to you

- Talk about the County
- Required update to Wayne County Comprehensive Plan completed in September 2010
- Findings and recommendations in the Plan need to generate concrete steps
- How to do this?? Project – Wayne Tomorrow!

# Who we are....

- Counties in PA divided into Nine Classes determined by population.
- All Counties governed by the County Code
- Wayne County is a 6<sup>th</sup> class county defined by a population between 45,000 and 95,000 people

# Who we are....

- County comprises 750.7 square miles
- 52 Miles from North of South
- 21 Miles from East to West
- 22 Townships and 6 Boroughs

# Who we are

- Population of 51,955 (2012 Estimate)
- 37 County Owned Bridges
- 11 County Flood Control Dams
- .59 miles of County Roads


## Major State and US Highways in Wayne County



(I) - Interstate Traffic Route

(US) - United States Traffic Route

(PA) - Pennsylvania Traffic Route

 **Municipal Boundaries**  
 **Roads**

Data Sources: PA Dept. of Transportation, 2009 and Wayne County, Pennsylvania, 2009.

Derek F. Williams, 2013



Wayne County:

**Total Square Miles: 760**

Total Miles North/South: **52**

Total Miles East/West: **21**

### Major State and US Highways in Wayne County

Prepared by the

Wayne County Department of Planning	
August, 2013	
(570) 253-5970 ext. 4060	<a href="http://www.co.wayne.pa.us">www.co.wayne.pa.us</a>



# Who we are....

- The corporate power of each county shall be vested in a board of county commissioners
- 3 Commissioners function as both Legislative and Executive Branch of Government
  - Brian Smith, Jonathan Fritz, Wendell Kay
- Responsible managers and administrators of the fiscal affairs of the county
- Crucial liaison between citizens and State and Federal Legislators

# Wayne County

- 6 Main Building Complexes
- Several satellite centers and offices – Senior Centers, MDJ Offices, Food Pantry, Rec Complex
- Approximately 475 full-time and 90 part-time employees deliver required and mandated services to citizens of all ages based on level of services required



# Wayne County – Elected Officials

- President Judge appoints and directs operations of the Judicial Staff
- Includes: Adult and Juvenile Probation, Domestic Relations, MDJ staff
- Elected Row Offices – supervision and direction of workflow in their respective offices

# Wayne County

- 60% of the General Fund Budget Revenues are generated from Real Estate Taxes
- Only tax available to Counties of the 6<sup>th</sup> Class to fund General Fund
- County tax bills sent in February of each year together with Municipal taxes (1 bill includes both taxing districts)

# Wayne County

- What is a millage rate: A tax that is applied to the assessed value of Real Estate. Expressed in tenths of a penny
- Example:  $2 \text{ mills} = 2 \times 1/1000 = .002$
- $100,000 \text{ Assessed Value} \times 3.71 \text{ mills} = \$ 371.00$

# Comparison of County Taxes

COUNTY	MILLAGE	ASSESSED VALUE	CALCULATION	COUNTY RATIO PERCENT	2013 TAX DUE
Wayne	.00371	100,000	\$ 371.00	100%	\$ 371.00
Pike	.01854	100,000	\$ 1854.00	25%	\$ 463.50
Lackawanna	.005742	100,000	\$ 574.20	100%	\$ 574.20
Monroe	.02125	100,000	\$ 2125.00	25%	\$ 531.25
Susquehanna	.01083	100,000	\$ 1083.00	50%	\$ 541.50

# Wayne County

- General Fund Revenue determined by
  - Total Assessed Value for County
  - Multiplied by millage rate

Assessment Value (x) Millage rate = Revenue

Only way to increase Revenue is to Increase either  
Assessment Value or millage rate

**REAL ESTATE TAX NOTICE FOR FISCAL 2013, TAXING DISTRICT, WAYNE COUNTY, PA**

Payable to: Tax Collector Name Office Hours BILL # 9999  
 Address 99 XXXXX XXXXXX XX TUE,WED,THUR,FRI 9-3 & THUR 5-6  
 Address XXXXXXXXXXX, XX 99999-9999 SAT MAY 18 & MAY 25 9-NOON  
 MAY 30 9-6 MAY 31 9-5  
 Phone (570)000-0000 EXCEPT HOLIDAYS OR BY APPT.

Control 000000 Tax Map 00-0-0000-0000 Acreage 0.00 + or - Mailing Date 00/00/0000

Taxes		Tax Rate	Face Amount
County Tax	3.300 ML		393.36
Debt Tax	0.4100 ML		48.87
General Purpos	4.0800 ML		486.34
Pension	0.0500 ML		5.96
Debt Purpose	0.6000 ML		71.52
Fire/Rec	0.5700 ML		67.94

Total Tax Due 1,073.99

Payment Schedule  
 Before ##### 2.00% Discount 1,052.51  
 Between 6/1/2013 And 00/00/0000 1,073.99  
 Beginning 8/1/2013 5.00% Penalty 1,127.69

Assessed Value Land Use Code  
 Land 40,100 Pay Tax Collector before 12/31/2013  
 Impr 79,100 If Handicapped call for Appointment.  
 Total 119,200 Unpaid taxes returned to Tax Claim and  
 If taxes escrowed, forward bill to mortgage  
 payment.

No mobile home may be removed without  
 first obtaining a permit from the tax collector

Taxes are due and payable and payment is requested for

**Tax payer Name** XXXX X & XXXXXXXX X XXXXXXXXXXXXX

**Address** 99 XXXXX XXXXXX XX

**Address** XXXXXXXXXXX, XX 99999-9999

Amount Date Tax Collector

TAXPAYER COPY

Return both copies with a self addressed  
 envelope for a receipt.

# Wayne County

- How do you contact the County?
- Phone – 570-253-5970 main number
- Websites:
  - [www.co.wayne.pa.us](http://www.co.wayne.pa.us)- Government Website
  - [www.visitwaynecounty.com](http://www.visitwaynecounty.com)- Tourism & Events
  - <https://wayne.alertpa.org>- Emergency Alerts
  - [www.winfo.co.wayne.pa.us](http://www.winfo.co.wayne.pa.us) – Services Information

# Wayne County

- Social Media – Facebook Pages; Coming Soon
  - Visit Wayne County PA
  - Wayne County Sheriff's Department
  - Wayne County Courthouse
  - Wayne County Office of Emergency Management
  - Wayne County Area Agency on Aging
  - Wayne Conservation District



- Towards the Future

- Making Wayne County a better place
  - To live, visit and work
    - **Wayne Tomorrow**

# Wayne Tomorrow

- Required update to Wayne County Comprehensive Plan completed in September 2010 provided recommendations
- Findings and recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan need to become Active
- How to do this?? Project – Wayne Tomorrow!

# Wayne Tomorrow!

- Mission Statement:
  - an inclusive process for on-going dialogue and creating a shared vision, building our community and guiding development of Wayne County

# Why Now....

- It's time to move forward on the Comprehensive Plan
- Significant infrastructure has been put in place
- Innovation is presenting us with new opportunities
- Economic conditions are changing – present both dangers and opportunities

# Wayne Tomorrow

- Guided by Action Committee – develop concepts, ideas and projects to move us forward
- Defined Key Areas that define who we are and where we are going
- Form broadly based Work Groups to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

# Wayne Tomorrow

- Key areas defining who we are and where we are going, the topics of the work groups:
  - Agriculture
  - Human Resources and Education
  - Quality of Life
  - Sustainable Communities
  - Business & Economic Development

# Qualities/Requirements

- **Qualities-** All groups identified qualities or characteristics they would like to see imbedded into the strategic actions of this initiative:
  - **Inclusive** - Consider all populations (demographic, geographic, resident, part-time.)
  - **Balance** - Seek balance between groups/categories, such as balancing the environment and economic needs.

# Qualities/Requirements

- **Collaboration & Integration** - Remove silos, improve communication.
- **Health** - Incorporate concept of health throughout initiative, such as healthy environment, healthy economy, healthy lifestyle.
- **Tolerance** - Foster relationships, become a welcoming community.



# Info Gathering

- Presentations by:
  - Wayne Memorial Hospital –Community Needs Assessment
  - Wayne Library Alliance – Strategic Planning
  - Dr. Paul Harrington – Economic Impact of Disengaged 18 – 34 year olds
  - Challenges and Opportunities in Four Rural Americas: University of New Hampshire Study
  - WEDCO, Wayne County and Workforce Wayne

# Info Gathering

- Also:
  - Wayne County Planning – Comprehensive Plan
  - Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau
  - Regional Impact Study – Institute for Public Policy
  - CTC
  - Workforce Wayne; Wayne County Gov't; County Quality Council
- Surveys and Census Data
- Studies of other communities

# Internet/Communication

- Increase communication between farm organizations and farmers. Necessary for business retention and expansion.
- Critical connections to training providers, educational resources.
- Increasingly important to individuals, businesses, households. Critical for next gen health services.
- Explore concepts of digital community.

# Career & Technical Center

- Support agri-production skills.
- Fundamental to transforming current economy.
- Critical for training for 21st Century jobs.
- Increase opportunities for youth and adults students.
- Education/training key to building local resources - understanding and installing systems.

# Economic Development

Develop Infrastructure / Local Production.

- Economic Ecosystem, remove barriers.
- Integrate career training with economic development objectives.
- Financial resources, fundamental to health & happiness of community.
- Collaborate on economic development and sustainable community objective and strategies.

# Education Opportunities

- Train next generation of farmers. Shortage of labor.
- Fundamental to transforming current economy.
- Critical for training for 21st Century jobs.
- Substantial data links education level to earnings and quality of life.
- Education/training key to building local resources.

# Health & Wellness

- Local production, farm fresh concepts
- Healthcare resources important element of business attraction. Outdoor recreation and healthy lifestyle is a differentiator.
- Healthcare is number one industry - need for training programs.
- Meet basic needs: improve general health, reduce addictions, avenues for spiritual health. Leverage WMH resources.
- Fundamental to sustainable community concepts.

# Natural Assets

- Provides strong base for agriculture industry.
- Explore means of using natural assets as drivers of economic development; key asset for business attraction; leverage tourism and visitor/part-time communities.
- Work with SEEDs and other organizations to understand business and training required in alternative and renewable energy fields.
- Outdoor living and recreation one of our differentiators.
- Protect and maintain our resources, explore methods of maintaining local control



# Transportation

- Bringing products to Market
- Key infrastructure for moving good & services. Required to attract business
- Connecting individuals to training providers.
- Access to goods & services. Adequate bike paths and trails for healthy living, healthy environment.
- **Keep in mind** strategies for reduced emission - mass transit, biking, hiking

# What's being worked on

- Technology Committee in County working on solutions to bring expanded access to high speed internet to both consumers and even higher level lines to attract Tech Savvy business
  - County giving access to PSP Radio System for affordable wireless internet to south Wayne, discussions for expansion to continue

# What's Being Worked On

- Sterling Business and Technology Park – Western Wayne School District; Wayne County and Sterling Twp have applied for KOZ status to attract business and compete with other local properties.

# What's being worked on

- Planning continues for Career & Technology Center
- Pike & Wayne Counties only 2 of 3 Counties to not have Career & Technology Building
- Designation as Community Education Council by Department of Education

# What's working

- Schools building school to work programs, sharing resources, career cruising
- Improved access to expanded college and continuing education opportunities

# What's already being worked on

- Wayne Memorial has completed Community Needs Assessment and health care expansion and development continues
- Partnerships between Hospital, County and Community groups to solve problems together

# What's already being worked on

Successful community partnership effort to halt burdensome regulations

Dialogue continuing between groups with different focus, but same goals

# Summary

- Need to keep issues at forefront to be current and competitive. Continue to develop plans/opportunities in key areas:
  - Agriculture
  - Economic Development/Smart Growth
  - Education, Training and Human Resources
  - Quality of Life
  - Sustainable Communities

Using the Opportunities/Findings as the First Step



# Public Participation

- Key to success of this project
- Work groups continuing to work on projects and ideas
- Need your ideas, comments and opinions to continue to lead Wayne County into the next generation
- Youth are key – working with schools to get their involvement and input

# What Can I Do

- Make recommendations for specific projects and actions that will improve things
- ***Key: What can we do to make Wayne County the place to be – for us, for our children, for potential residents and businesses***

# What Can I Do

- Get involved – locally or county-wide
- Share your views
  - Join the Action Committee or a Work Group of interest
  - Submit feedback or question via e-mail
  - Submit a question or comment tonight on our presentation

# Contact Info

- Commissioners Office – 570-253-5970 ext. 4050 -  
Chief Clerk – Vicky Botjer
- PowerPoint posted on  
[www.co.wayne.pa.us/features](http://www.co.wayne.pa.us/features)
- E-mail – [feedback@co.wayne.pa.us](mailto:feedback@co.wayne.pa.us)
- Submit a question tonight, send us an e-mail, give us a call.